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NEWS RELEASE

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DSHS SECRETARY MITCHELL HOSTS SHOTSPOTTER DEMO FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ShotSpotter Used to Solve Shooting Crimes

Delaware Safety and Homeland Security Secretary, David B. Mitchell, today hosted a demonstration of the ShotSpotter gunshot location technology for local law enforcement interested in new and innovative ways to solve shooting crimes

“There is no single solution to reducing violent crimes especially those that involve shootings. We must explore a variety of resources including new technology like ShotSpotter to help us fight crime and make our communities safer,” Secretary Mitchell said. “This technology has proven beneficial in other urban areas throughout the country and today several members of the law enforcement community learned how it could enhance our response to shootings in Delaware.

The ShotSpotter technology has been effective in more than a dozen cities including Washington, D.C. and could be beneficial in Delaware.

The ShotSpotter technology detects gunfire up to a mile away. In a multi-shot incident, the system reports the location of each individual shot so that officers are dispatched to the correct location with information about the number of shots fired and the number of shooters.

In 2004, at the direction of Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Secretary Mitchell began meeting with Wilmington Public Safety Director James Mosley, Wilmington Police Chief Michael Szczerba and New Castle County Public Safety Director Frazier to discuss strategies to reduce gun violence in the Wilmington area. Those meetings have continued and the demonstration of the ShotSpotter technology is an outgrowth of the meetings.

“We have looked at various ways technology can enable us to be more effective with limited resources,” Mitchell said. Reducing violent crimes is not easy and we must look at all possible solutions including the use of technology to investigate and solve crimes.”